

ASC X12N/005010X220E1

Based on Version 5, Release 1

ASC X12 Standards for Electronic Data Interchange
Technical Report Type 3

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Benefit Enrollment and Maintenance (834)

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begins with a segment ID and contains related data elements. A control segment has the same structure as a data segment; the distinction is in the use. The data segment is used primarily to convey user information, but the control segment is used primarily to convey control information and to group data segments.

B.1.1.2.2 Basic Character Set

The section that follows is designed to have representation in the common character code schemes of EBCDIC, ASCII, and CCITT International Alphabet 5. The ASC X12 standards are graphic-character-oriented; therefore, common character encoding schemes other than those specified herein may be used as long as a common mapping is available. Because the graphic characters have an implied mapping across character code schemes, those bit patterns are not provided here.

The basic character set of this standard, shown in Table B.1 - *Basic Character Set*, includes those selected from the uppercase letters, digits, space, and special characters as specified below.

Table B.1 - *Basic Character Set*

Blank spaces replaced

A...Z	0...9	!	"	&	'	()	+	*
,	-	.	/	:	;	?	=	" " (space)	

B.1.1.2.3 Extended Character Set

An extended character set may be used by negotiation between the two parties and includes the lowercase letters and other special characters as specified in Table B.2 - *Extended Character Set*.

Table B.2 - *Extended Character Set*

Additional characters added

a...z	%	~	@	[]	_	{	}
\		<	>	^	`	#	\$	

Note that the extended characters include several character codes that have multiple graphical representations for a specific bit pattern. The complete list appears in other standards such as CCITT S.5. Use of the USA graphics for these codes presents no problem unless data is exchanged with an international partner. Other problems, such as the translation of item descriptions from English to French, arise when exchanging data with an international partner, but minimizing the use of codes with multiple graphics eliminates one of the more obvious problems.

